



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

CHAMBERS OF
BARBARA M. QUINN, JUDGE
CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR

231 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106

Testimony of
Judge Barbara M. Quinn, Chief Court Administrator
Government Administration and Elections Committee
March 23, 2009

Senate Bill 1145, An Act Concerning Repairs, Additions and
Alterations to State-Owned Buildings

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **Senate Bill 1145, An Act Concerning Repairs, Additions and Alterations to State-Owned Buildings**.

The Judicial Branch **strongly supports** this proposal, which would increase the dollar threshold for "agency administered" construction projects from \$500,000 to \$2,000,000, for the following reasons:

- It will benefit both the Judicial Branch and the Department of Public Works, as well as the other agencies affected;
- Redefining the "formal" project threshold will appropriately shorten the administrative procedure for projects, thus allowing much needed repair and renovation projects to be initiated and completed more efficiently;
- The \$500,000 limit has been in place for ten years and has not kept pace with the sharp rise in construction costs during that time. This has resulted in an increase in the number and type of projects for which the Department of Public Works is responsible;
- The Judicial Branch has the administrative capacity to take on projects of greater value; this proposal would allow us to expedite more projects;
- A high percentage of the projects that would fall under the \$2 million threshold are repair projects. The Judicial Branch is in the best position to administer these projects, as we are familiar with the systems and conditions of our buildings.

In addition, the Judicial Branch would respectfully request that the Committee amend this bill to provide for an increase in the threshold specified in section 2 for repairs, alterations or additions to buildings or premises under the supervision of the Office of the Chief Court Administrator from \$100,000 to \$2,000,000. This statutory provision is necessary in order to implement the changes contemplated by this bill. I have attached hereto, for the Committee's consideration, a suggested amendment that would accomplish this purpose, and I would urge the Committee to incorporate the language into the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Proposed Amendment to S.B. 1145, *AAC Repairs, Additions
and Alterations to State-Owned Buildings***

1. In line 77, insert an opening bracket before "one" and insert "two million" thereafter.
2. In line 78, insert a closing bracket after "thousand."

NOTE: This would apply the change to both and the Judicial Branch and the constituent units of the state system of higher education. While we are advocating for this change only on behalf of the Judicial Branch, since the amount has always been the same for both, we did not believe that we should "de-couple" it. If the Committee does not wish to increase the amount for the constituent units of higher education, we will be happy to re-draft the language so that it applies only to the Branch.